

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

S S - MR. MILLER

NEA:LBLAINGEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 240919

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: INDIAN AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON SECRETARY

1. SUMMARY: DURING DEC. 7 CALL, INDIAN AMB AND SECRETARY AGREED THAT INDO-US RELATIONS STEADILY IMPROVING AND SHOULD IMPROVE FURTHER FOLLOWING RUPEE SETTLEMENT. KAUL STRESSED GOI HOPE SECRETARY WOULD BE ABLE VISIT DELHI. SECRETARY INDICATED HE HOPED DO SO BY MID-1974. SECRETARY TOLD KAUL SOUTH ASIA HAD NOT FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN CHINA TALKS, BUT CHINESE REMAINED DISTRUSTFUL OF
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INDIANS. ALSO SAID INDIA NOT DISCUSSED AT LENGTH WITH

BHUTTO DURING RECENT ISLAMABAD STOPOVER. ON BREZHNEV VISIT, SECRETARY SAID WE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT GOOD INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. CAMBODIA. SECRETARY SAID WE APPRECIATED INDIA'S ACTIONS IN UN ON CAMBODIA. KAUL RESPONDED THAT GOI WAS GLAD THAT ISSUE HAD BEEN POSTPONED FOR A YEAR AND HOPED IN MEANTIME IT WOULD BE RESOLVED.

3. CHINA VISIT. SECRETARY SAID THAT INDIA DID NOT PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN TALKS DURING HIS RECENT VISIT PEKING. CHINESE EXPRESSED DISTRUST ABOUT INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION AND ASIAN SECURITY SCHEME. THEY QUESTIONED INDIAN SINCERITY BUT HAD NOT GONE INTO GREAT DETAIL AS IN PREVIOUS VISITS. SECRETARY TOLD CHINESE HE THOUGHT INDIA

WAS PREPARED TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS AND PRESENTED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT INDIA WAS CONDUCTING ITS OWN FOREIGN POLICY, AND WAS NOT ACTING AS EXTENSION OF SOVIETS.

4. WITH REGARD TO BANGLADESH, SECRETARY STATED HE THOUGHT CHINESE WOULD FOLLOW PAKISTAN'S LEAD, BUT OVER LONG TERM FELT THAT THEY HAD GOOD PROSPECTS THERE. NOW THAT BANGLADESH EXISTED, SECRETARY SAID US WAS ON INDIA'S SIDE AND WANTED COUNTRY TO BE A VIABLE AND PROGRESSIVE ENTITY. KAUL AGREED THAT THERE WAS NOW NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST BETWEEN US AND INDIA ON BANGLADESH.

5. PAKISTAN. KAUL CALLED SECRETARY'S ATTENTION TO RECENT STATEMENTS BY BHUTTO ON KASHMIR WHICH INDIANS CONSIDERED CONTRARY TO SPIRIT OF SIMLA AGREEMENT. HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS HAD COME UP DURING SECRETARY'S RECENT STOP IN PAKISTAN. SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT MOST OF DISCUSSION IN ISLAMABAD CENTERED ON MIDDLE EAST AND THERE WAS LITTLE TALK ABOUT SOUTH ASIA. BHUTTO HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN REGARDING WHAT HE CONSIDERED PAKISTAN'S MILITARY WEAKNESS VIS-A-VIS INDIA, BUT MADE NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS.

6. INDO-US RELATIONS. SECRETARY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION
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FOR FOREIGN MINISTER'S DEC. 6 REMARKS IN PARLIAMENT ON INDO-US RELATIONS. THIS ALSO REFLECTED USG VIEW. OUR RELATIONS WERE STEADILY IMPROVING, WITHOUT PEAKS BUT ALSO WITHOUT VALLEYS. WE REMAINED READY TO RESPOND TO ANY CONCRETE INDIAN IDEAS. SECRETARY WAS PREPARED TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH AN INDIAN REP HERE IF PM WISHED TO SEND SOME-ONE, OR TO AVAIL SELF OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S KIND INVITATION TO VISIT INDIA NEXT YEAR. SECRETARY ASKED KAUL TO

TELL FOREIGN MINISTER AND MRS. GANDHI THAT WE SAW NO OBSTACLES TO BETTER RELATIONS.

7. KAUL STATED GOI RECIPROCATED US VIEWS ON IMPROVING RELATIONS. IT DID NOT EXPECT SPECTACULAR RESULTS, BUT IF RUPEE SETTLEMENT WENT THROUGH, WE COULD GO ON TO OTHER POINTS, SUCH AS IMPROVEMENT OF TRADE, AND CULTURAL RELATIONS AND POSSIBLY ESTABLISHMENT OF BINATIONAL COMMISSIONS. KAUL SAID THAT AT SOME STAGE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF SECRETARY WOULD MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT ON INDO-US RELATIONS. SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT THIS WOULD BE EASY AND HE WOULD DO SO IN CONTEXT OF HIS NEXT PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER HIS UPCOMING TRIP.

8. SECRETARY SAID, IN RESPONSE TO KAUL'S PROBING WHEN VISIT MIGHT OCCUR, THAT THIS COULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE

DURING FIRST HALF OF 1974. KAUL ASSURED SECRETARY OF WARM WELCOME BY GOI WHICH GREATLY ADMIRE HIS ACHIEVEMENTS.

9. BREZHNEV VISIT. KAUL REFERRED TO DEC. 7 NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL WHICH SPOKE OF INDIA'S TILTING TOWARD SOVIET UNION. SECRETARY SAID WE WERE NOT PANICKED BY FRIENDLY INDIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS. KAUL ASSURED SECRETARY GOI HAD NOT GRANTED SOVIETS ANY NAVAL BASES AS IMPLIED BY NEWS MEDIA.

10. INDIAN OCEAN. KAUL NOTED THAT INCREASED US INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL PRESENCE PROMPTED QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT. IN THIS REGARD, INDIA WAS INTERESTED IN A CONFERENCE ON INDIAN OCEAN PROBLEM, WHICH MIGHT SPELL OUT RULES FOR PEACEFUL COMMERCE AND FIND WAY TO AVOID

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MILITARY RIVALRIES. SECRETARY SAID WE HAD NOT STUDIED THIS IDEA. HE ALSO NOTED THAT WE WERE NOT THINKING OF REPLACING CARRIER ORISKANY WHEN ITS DEPLOYMENT ENDED. RUSH

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